

that criminals have contributed. That is some good news.

Mr. Speaker, we have also started this year the Victims Rights Caucus. I, along with the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) from the other side of the aisle, have started the first-ever Victims Rights Caucus to raise the profile, the plight of victims throughout the United States. This is a good start.

It is important that judges throughout the United States be on the first line of defense of our children. What I mean by that is when individuals are caught sexually assaulting our children and they come to court and they have their day in court and they are convicted, judges need to understand they have a responsibility to punish those individuals. We need to lock them up. That is why we build prisons. It may be important to prosecute thieves and drug dealers and all those other types of criminals, but we build prisons to house and warehouse people who commit sex crimes against our children. That is why we build those institutions and judges have an obligation to send them there.

The cases that I recited earlier, many of them, they had gone to prison, but not for long enough because they got out and did it again. We know the fact that almost everybody who goes to prison gets out eventually. We also know this about sexual predators on our children, that the overwhelming number of them, when they leave the penitentiary, repeat that conduct.

So we have an obligation when they get out of the penitentiary to keep up with them, to track them, so they can no longer haunt our schools, our Boy Scouts, our churches and our neighborhoods.

That is why I introduced legislation called the Child Predator Act of 2005. This legislation requires registration of sex offenders throughout the United States. When they cross State lines, we lose them. They fall through the cracks. This legislation will require them to register when they move across State lines, they must notify the community; and by failure to notify, they have committed a Federal offense.

This act, this bill, has been incorporated in a larger bill sponsored by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), sponsors from both sides of the House, called the Child Safety Act. This bipartisan legislation, when hopefully passed this summer, is a measure that will protect the safety of children. It will allow for the Internet access of parents and law enforcement of those sexual predators that live in their communities. States will be required to notify each other when an individual who is a sex offender crosses State lines. There are numerous other provisions that protect children from sex offenders. But basically we will track these individuals when they leave the penitentiary, and we

will track them for the rest of their lives. That is the price they pay when they choose to commit a crime against children.

We know this about child predators: they are slick; they are cunning; they are evil. And they continue to repeat their conduct. Most sexual predators that show up at the courthouse that have committed sex crimes against children, it is understood that they have committed several sex crimes against that one victim and that there are at least 10 other victims that they have committed sex crimes against.

There is a war on terror going on in this world, and we say it is somewhere else. We have a war on terror not only abroad but we have it at home. The terror here, they are child molesters. They are the bad guys. And they can no longer run and hide, because we are going to keep up with them. We know that they cannot be rehabilitated. All statistics show that. So if we do not keep them in prison, we need to track them when they leave the penitentiaries.

It is probably the hope of most of us when we leave this world, when we die, that we want to be surrounded with the most important people in our life, probably our kids. This week I had my third grandchild born 2 days ago, Elizabeth. I have four kids, three girls, a son, and now three grandkids. They are all very special to me. I hope that when I die, I am surrounded by those kids.

The worst thing I think that could ever happen to a parent is to lose a child and especially lose a child to a crime of violence. But none of these children that I talked about tonight left this world surrounded by the people that love them. They were found in holes in the ground, dumped on parking lots, thrown in rivers and lakes. Some of their bodies were burned. The last person they saw on Earth was not their mother, their father, their brother, their sister, but a sex offender. That is the last person they saw before they died.

We need to be sensitive as a people to our children, not just our own personal kids but the children down the street, our neighbors' kids. We need to watch for them and protect them. We have that obligation. We have that moral and legal obligation as a people. These kids, these children, they had the right to life. They had the right to grow up, play in their backyard, go to school, have a picnic, run through the fields, believe in Santa Claus, play sports, be in the school play, be in the high school prom, find a mate. All these things were stolen from all of the kids that I mentioned to you tonight, and they were stolen by a child predator.

We must hold these criminals accountable for their conduct. As a judge, I heard all types of excuses by these sexual predators about why they did what they did. Those comments by those individuals were nothing more than excuses. Some of them said they had a bad childhood. Their mom was

not a nice person. They saw too much TV violence. They played video games. They watched the Internet. They continued to blame something or someone else for their own personal choices. Mr. Speaker, we now seem to live in the land of excusable conduct. All of us are responsible for the choices that we make. Every choice we make, we are personally responsible for that choice. We are accountable for making those choices, and those choices must result in consequences, regardless of what that crime is.

Our greatest resource in this country is not our oil, it is not the trees in the West, it is not other natural resources, it is not our wealth. The greatest resource we have in the United States is our children. We as a people must realize that. We are not judged by the way we treat the rich, the famous, the influential, the important people in our culture. We are judged by the way we treat the weak, the innocent, the children. Children are our greatest natural resource. We have a legal and moral obligation to protect them. The first duty of government is public safety and providing safety for children should be our primary concern and the duty of government.

Mr. Speaker, I close the way I began this comment, because I think the names of these people, these real people, these children, are names that we should not forget.

Dru Sjoden, 22, North Dakota.
Cary Ann Medlin, 8, Tennessee.
Nicole Parker, 8, California.
Chris Byers, 8, Arkansas.
Sherrice Iverson, 7, Nevada.
Amanda Brown, 7, Florida.
Christina Long, 13, Connecticut.
Michelle Vick, 14, Washington.
Samantha Runnion, 5, California.
Maryann Measles, 13, Connecticut.
Polly Klaas, 12, California.
Amber Hagerman, 9, Texas.
Adam Walsh, 6, Florida.
Megan Kanka 7, New Jersey.
JonBenet Ramsey 6, Colorado.
Sarah Lundy, 13, Florida.
Danielle Van Dam, 7, California.
Carlie Brucia, 11, Florida.
Jessica Lunsford, 9, Florida.
Dylan Groene, 9, Idaho.
Wonderbaby, 6 months, Houston, Texas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ON THE OUTING OF A CIA AGENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the Chamber this evening to address what many of us consider a very serious breach of our national security. The outing of a covert agent